

FREEDOM FOR FRANCISCO
HERODES DÍAZ ECHEMENDÍA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Echemendía is a member of the respected Pedro Luis Boitel organization named for Pedro Luis Boitel, a heroic, legendary Cuban political prisoner who died in a hunger strike in 1972. This organization, based in Placetas, Villa Clara, with provincial delegations throughout Cuba, has the primary objective of urging the Cuban tyranny to grant amnesty to all political prisoners and to abolish the indefensible "political" crimes in totalitarian Cuba. Well aware of the consequences associated with his involvement in Cuba's pro-democracy movement, Mr. Díaz Echemendía has never relinquished his dream that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights.

Because of his belief in these inalienable rights, Mr. Díaz Echemendía was arrested by the dictatorship on August 9, 1990 on absurd charges of "enemy propaganda, sabotage, and disrespect" which amounted to nothing more than his decision to voice the truth about totalitarian Cuba. For his supposed "crime" Mr. Díaz Echemendía was wrongfully and cruelly "sentenced" to twenty years and ten months in the totalitarian gulag.

On September 10, 1997, after being held in a subhuman dungeon for seven years, over thirty of the tyrant's security thugs savagely attacked Mr. Díaz Echemendía and other incarcerated human rights activists. Mr. Díaz Echemendía was mercilessly punched and kicked on the neck, ribs, back and face. By the time the thugs ceased committing their crimes against him he had suffered severe injuries to his left arm and his nose and lips had been split wide open. To add insult to injury he and his fellow political prisoners were handcuffed and unable to defend themselves against their attackers throughout the entire brutal assault.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Díaz Echemendía languishes in conditions that according to Amnesty International are rat infested and crawling with mice and cockroaches, with nothing but a small hole in the ground as a "bathroom". In prison Mr. Díaz Echemendía has been beaten and tortured at the orders of a racist, brutal, maniacal tyrant, simply for dreaming that the Cuban people must have basic and fundamental universal human rights.

Madam Speaker, this is only one of the abhorrent episodes of violence that are continually carried out on countless innocent Cuban men and women languishing in the darkness and infernal hell that is Castro's gulag. Let me be clear, Mr. Díaz Echemendía suffers cruel and malignant acts of hatred and horror, which have often left him, like many others on that oppressed island, in critical condition without any access to medical care. And yet, though the tyranny has attempted to destroy Mr. Díaz Echemendía, he will never cease in his commitment to freedom for Cuba.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that just 90 miles from our shores Mr. Díaz

Echemendía is languishing in a totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Francisco Herodes Díaz Echemendía and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO ED BRADLEY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD, written by Albert Carey Caswell:

AT A WAY ED

At A Way Ed,
To our world you so gave, all in what you said!

In how you so searched for the truth, for in your heart we so found the proof . . . as you read!

A—pioneer
Who to all hearts so endeared, a man who knew no fear!

For your mission was so clear, with your words of wisdom here . . . to enlighten all, so very clear!

A man of color, of Great Hue!
Who lived & fought for what is right & what is true! An inspiration, a hero for our children to view!

Another great American, in this our great land . . . of That Old Red, White, and Blue!

A tall man,
Of kind voice, of quiet warm grace the people's choice . . . who above all others would so stand!

With his beard and ear ring, to the cause of truth himself he would bring . . . this man!

Ed, you had such charm . . . in your own soft grace!

The coolest of cool, that's what we'll remember whenever we hear your voice and see your face!

For in the world of journalism, you shall always hold such this your fine high place!

From the jungles of Nam,
With Bob Dylan your lyrics were on, With The King Ali . . . all hearts were so touched so warm!

As forever in our hearts, you shall now live on!

For Life is so short,
But, in your Sixty Minutes . . . In your time, here on earth are so many magic moments to report!

You were Champion, A Fine Man . . . a great work of art, who now so stands . . . you were that sort!

At A Boy Ed,
You made it look so easy, a bright ray in the light of truth . . . in all you did and what you said . . .

How you taught so many, all in this . . . the fine life you led!

Ed . . . You've got one more exclusive,
You've got one last bag to pack, One last plane to catch . . . as an Angel who'll now so etch!

God's waiting in Heaven for you, for that greatest of all interviews . . . we'll miss you, God Bless!

At A Way Ed

TRIBUTE TO DIXIE LOUCKS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixie Loucks of Fort Collins, CO. She has led a life of service to her family, community and country.

Dixie was the third of nine children born to Charles and Netha McFarlane. She was raised on the family farm in Chugwater, WY, where she learned the value of family and hard work.

Dixie's family moved to Cedaredge, CO, when she was sixteen. It was there Dixie met the love of her life, her husband Jack Loucks. He was the boy next door and they married on February 22, 1948.

Jack joined the Air Force in 1949 and left for Korea in 1951 as an F-80 fighter/bomber pilot. He flew 101 missions. During this time Mrs. Loucks continued to live on the family farm and raised their daughter, Cristine. She provided support to her husband by sending him letters and pictures of their new daughter. These letters were a constant inspiration for Jack.

Throughout Jack's military career, Mrs. Loucks served her family and community. She began her community service at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey at the local hospital, coordinating Red Cross blood drives. As their daughters Cristine and Erylene began school, Mrs. Loucks was a tireless volunteer at their school and with Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. When the family was stationed in Tripoli, Mrs. Loucks made dresses for the local girls from flour sacks provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

After Jack's retirement the family moved to Fort Collins. Mrs. Loucks worked in the Public Trustee's office and served on the U.S. military academy selection committees. Additionally, she served as a volunteer at the family's church, Harbor Hope First Free Methodist Church. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, a nursery leader and as a member of the leadership council.

For the last 2 years Mrs. Loucks has been a member of the 'Knit and Knot' group who make fleece blankets, hats and layettes for babies of mothers in the Alpha Center for Women.

Madam Speaker, our country is certainly better because of Mrs. Loucks' commitment to her family and the years of volunteer service within the military, her community and her church. Hers is a life well lived and a pattern for others to follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dixie Loucks.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
DR. EMMA MORAN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida as I pay tribute to the life of Dr. Emma Moran.